

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DLJAMESON:PAW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN VISA PROBLEM OF MR. WALTER B. POTTER

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED COMPLAINT, THROUGH MR. MARSH AT WHITE HOUSE, THAT MR. WALTER B. POTTER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF CULPEPER STAR - EXPONENT, WAS REFUSED VISA TO VISIT ALGERIA AS LEADER OF GROUP OF 12 "NEWSPAPER PEOPLE" WHILE OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP WERE GRANTED VISAS FOR ALGERIA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MR. POTTER WILL BE IN TUNIS UNTIL END OF THIS WEEK, AND HAD PLANNED TO PROCEED FROM THERE TO ALGIERS. HE INTENDS TO CONTACT ALGERIAN EMBASSY IN TUNIS TO SEE IF VISA CAN BE OBTAINED THERE. IF EMBASSY TUNIS CAN CONTACT POTTER WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PASSING HIM FOLLOWING INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM ALGERIAN CONSUL REGARDING VISA PROBLEM.

2. CONSUL STATES THAT BEFORE GRANTING VISA TO JOURNALIST HE IS REQUIRED TO CABLE DETAILS OF JOURNALIST'S VISIT AND PARTICULAR INTERESTS TO ALGIERS FOR FINAL CLEARANCE

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AND IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT HE WILL BE RECEIVED PROPERLY

BY GOA OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO CONSUL THIS CLEARANCE
NORMALLY TAKES ABOUT 15 DAYS. VISA WAS THUS NOT REFUSED
BY GOA BUT SINCE MR. POTTER MADE APPLICATION LAST WEEK,
SHORTLY BEFORE HIS PLANNED DEPARTURE, THERE WAS NOT

ENOUGH TIME TO GET APPROPRIATE CLEARANCE FROM ALGIERS.
CONSUL SAYS HE SENT INITIAL CABLE TO ALGIERS BUT DID NOT
FORWARD ADDITIONAL DETAILS REQUIRED BECAUSE MR. POTTER
RETURNED TO EMBASSY AND RECLAIMED HIS PASSPORT. CONSUL
SAYS HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF GROUP OF JOURNALISTS
MR. POTTER IS LEADING AND SUGGESTS THAT POSSIBLY OTHER
MEMBERS OF GROUP APPLIED FOR SIMPLE TOURIST VISA RATHER
THAN REGISTERING AS JOURNALISTS AND THUS WERE GRANTED
VISA WITHOUT FURTHER QUESTION. INGERSOLL

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